Press Office
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Press Release

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION REINSTATES TESTING OF THE AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT AT BLAINE

Blaine, Washington — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) today reinstated testing of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), and its commercial truck processing capabilities at the port of Blaine. The ACE is the new commercial trade processing system being developed by CBP to enhance border security and expedite legitimate trade.

The ACE will replace the current import system, the Automated Commercial System (ACS). The ACE will revolutionize how CBP processes goods imported into the United States by providing an integrated, fully automated information system to enable the efficient collection, processing, and analysis of commercial import and export data.

The initial pilot found technical problems that resulted in lengthy system response times and usability issues. After three weeks of testing, the pilot was suspended to correct these problems and to install software upgrades.

In December, two electronic or "e-Manifests" were submitted through the ACE Secure Data Portal in Blaine, the first truck manifests ever to be submitted electronically.

There are nearly 400 importer, broker, and carrier accounts, representing more than 30 percent of the total value of fiscal year 2003 imports.

Truck carriers are encouraged to establish ACE truck carrier accounts and become certified to use the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) messaging system for electronic truck manifests to ensure smooth border operations when these capabilities are eventually mandated.

Preparations for ACE transitions at additional ports are progressing. Schedules and the port locations will be announced at a later date.

For information about how to establish an ACE account, e-mail CBP at **acenow@dhs.gov.** Also, check for the latest updates for ACE application information on the CBP website at www.cbp.gov/modernization/. Click on the logo or *Modernization & ACE.*

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